



*Prziborsky's
Hairdressers,
1961*

153.74

c.44.6 : Round Church Street and Ram Yard

1900 11 19

Sir – Among the many urgent improvements needed in Cambridge stands that of abolishing the old, worn-out buildings and improving the thoroughfares of the town. Disease is prevalent to a large extent and is to be found in districts with narrow thoroughfares and tumble-down houses. The buildings between Round Church Street and Ram Yard are a disgrace and in any other town would have been demolished long since; they should not be tolerated even in conservative Cambridge. - “W”

1900 12 03

Sir – no one who takes the trouble to make even a cursory inspection of the unlovely mass of bricks and timber in Ram Yard, Cambridge, can fail to see that its removal would be a matter of little inconvenience to a very few residents. Several of the buildings show no sign of occupation by night – there is one of two storeys which is occupied as a shoemaker's workroom. Another gloomy pile, now unoccupied, was, I believe, a blacksmith's shop. The whole block is uniformly hideous and obstructive. No one has a good word to say for it – V.S.N.

1900 12 07

Ram Yard, p3

1900 12 08

Ram Yard, p3 *

1903 02 13

The Rev Charles Crump, of Sawston, was summoned for riding a bicycle on the footpath. The police superintendent held up his hand and the defendant rode on the road saying, “You have fairly caught me”. The road was in an abominable condition; had he been a young lady not a word would have been said, but he supposed the policeman was glad to catch a parson. He was fined 6d. An undergraduate of Caius College was summoned for wheeling a bicycle on the footpath in Round Church Street. He said perambulators and mail carts were being wheeled along the path and he was not causing any danger or annoyance. He was fined 10s.

1906 12 29

Hudson's brewery applied for the transfer of the licence of the Golden Fleece, Ram Yard, an old beer-house attached to Brown's billiard rooms, which years ago was a celebrated resort of University billiard players. The house had been closed for eight months but now there was a new tenant. Some days ago it was refused, but now it was granted. 06 12 29a

1907 05 14

In 1874 part of the Holy Sepulchre churchyard was taken for widening the street on condition that the boundary was marked by a band of stone. Now the Electric Supply Company plans to build a sub-station in Round Church Street and want the Corporation to arrange for the removal and re-interring of any human remains. But they are not willing to incur any expense. 07 05 14a

1910

1919 05 07

Opening of new University Catholic Oratory, Round Church Street; Fisher Sunday – 19 05 07a

1930

1931 03 13

Hudson's brewery had closed six public houses in Cambridge: the Brewery Tap in Bridge Street, the White Swan and Prince Albert in Castle Street, the Beehive on Honey Hill, Spotted Cow in Northampton Street and Golden Fleece in Ram Yard. But they wanted to renew the licence for the Baron of Beef. The application was supported by a petition from the Sick Benefit Society and was granted. Also Cow & Calf & Crown & Sceptre. 31 03 13f

1932 01 21

A Ram Yard plumber told Cambridge bankruptcy court he had been successful until 1929 but due to the trade depression he could not get sufficient work and certain customers did not pay. He built a house in Belvoir Road for his own occupation with the very best plumbing and if this sold for £1,100 he could repay his creditors. 32 01 21

1934 05 29

One of the best-known Cambridge hairdressers Alexander Joseph Priziborsky was born in Cambridge 54 years ago. It was his father who founded the hairdressing establishment in Round Church Street about 1856 and on his death in 1905 his son took it over. He shaved his first customer when nine years old and built up a first class reputation, the majority of his customers coming from outside the town. 34 05 29

1938 12 13

Cambridgeshire Photographic Record exhibition – includes watercolours of areas impossible to photograph including view of Fitzroy Street and Burleigh Street corner from roof of Laurie & McConnals painted by Beryl Pickering; other sketches include the Saxon Cement Works, Eagle Hotel yard, Hobson Street from King Street end, Miss M.C. Greene paintings of yards – Ninepin, True Blue, Ram Yard, Falcon Yard. Last thatched roof in Blackamoor Head Yard - 38 12 13a

1940

1940 05 17

Undergraduate fired blanks from starting pistol in Round Church Street – 40 05 17a

1942 08 01

Recent raid damage at Cambridge: bombs on Union Society; debating hall escapes; flying at less than a hundred feet and in full view of many people a German raider dropped HE and incendiary bombs. Main damage was done to the library, writing room, committee room and the lounge. Masonry which

was flung about by the explosion burst through the roofs and all the windows at the front of the premises and overlooking Round Church Street were blown out. The debating hall was only very slightly damaged and that mostly by water. The end of the library received a direct hit from a small high explosive bomb and several fire bombs but the steel stacks in which the books were housed saved them from the effect of the blast. The collection of music books were lost. One stained glass window of the Round Church was blown in, otherwise the church escaped – 42 08 01, 42 08 01a [raid was July 23rd]

1942 09 19

Photographic club meeting room Ram Yard damaged by bombs, move – 42 09 19a

1943 10 07

Cambridge Photographic Society move HQ from Ram Yard to Cambridgeshire Technical School, though dark room will continue until Christmas; first lady president (Mrs K. Moore) retires Hon Sec for 15 years, I.S. Moore had died – 43 10 07a; death Agnes Johnson – 43 12 30

1950

1956 12 04

After 25 years and nine previous meeting places, Cambridge Christian Spiritualist Church moved into their own permanent home. The former Crown and Harp public house, John Street, can hold 100 people. The church had its beginning in July 1931 and met at 11 Ram Yard which was hit by a bomb and totally destroyed on 27th July 1942, a brass cross being the only thing saved. 56 12 04a

1958 03 27

Permission has been granted for the construction of a car park for 146 vehicles in Park Street, Cambridge. The site ranges from cottage and three-storey houses to warehouses and sheds. When financial conditions permit a multi-storey building will be constructed, probably with shops on the ground floor. A new access road will be made from Bridge Street along the present line of Round Church Street. 58 03 27a

1960's The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960

1961 03 10

The 'promontory', a building that formerly housed Prziborsky's hairdressing shop, with Ram Yard to its left and Round Church Street to the right, is to be cleared by the City Council to provide a wide lead-in to the new car park in Park Street. The cottages are not very beautiful and most have been condemned as unfit by the Public Health Department. But they are home to a small community of tenants including Tim Eiloart who crossed the Atlantic in a small balloon, Jasper Rose the artist-don who has a studio there and Graham Pollard, a numismatist at the Fitzwilliam Museum. Their lives are interconnected, they give supper parties and meet together to play Bach in an upstairs room. But now they must move elsewhere 61 03 10 & a

1961 08 31

Prziborsky's barbers shop in Ram Yard is to be swept away by demolition and redevelopment. The site is to be incorporated into a new road leading to Park Street car park. It was founded in 1879 by Count Prziborsky after he left his position as barber at the Imperial Austrian court. The family connection elapsed in 1934 when the Count's son died and Mr Frederick Osborne took over the business. A ladies' hairdressing side catered for Girton and Newnham girls but was discontinued during the war 61 08 31a

1961 09 22

Demolition in Ram Yard has revealed a brick inscribed '1509'. Its size indicates that it was part of a batch produced shortly after 1790 when the Government imposed a brick tax. As a result bricks

suddenly became larger so fewer were needed to build a house. A firm at Bourn made outsize bricks of a four-inch depth, which can be seen all over the village. A very handsome gault brick was made by a Barnwell firm. These are still very much in demand and when properties are demolished they are salvaged for reuse. The Shire Hall was built from such old bricks which fetch £11 a thousand. 61 09 22a

1964 07 30

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Round Church Street – 64 07 30

1964 11 19

Marshall's printing business, Round Church Street established 1826 by Mr Wilson; were nearly destroyed by bombs in 1942; to be sold – 64 11 19e

1964 11 27

Buildings in Jordan's Yard, Round Church Street and Bridge Street should be acquired by council for preservation and extension Park Street car park – 64 11 27i

1969 05 14

Bridge Street buildings on corner Round Church Street must be restored to original condition; owners P.H. Allin want to demolish – 69 04 30a. Storm over plans to demolish – 69 05 14 , 14a

1970

1972 05 06

New plans for office block development on the corner of Bridge Street and Round Church Street, Cambridge, are likely to be submitted soon, said developers, the Scottish Mutual Assurance Society. The Department of the Environment's refusal of the previous plans was announced yesterday, after a seven-year wrangle between developers, planners, and preservationists which culminated in a public inquiry last December. One of the crucial points of the first scheme was the future of number 10 Bridge Street on the corner which was to have been demolished. Objectors feared this would enable city planners to push back the building line in Round Church Street and set a radical precedent that would ruin the whole street, p9

1972 08 31

The preservation and restoration of the historic frontage of 10-16 Bridge Street, Cambridge is assured in new plans for a 40,000 sq.ft. development by the Scottish Mutual Assurance Company. An earlier version of the scheme was turned down after a public inquiry. It involved knocking down the corner building and replacing it with a new structure which the inspector at the inquiry described as "aggressive in design". The new plans preserve the Bridge Street frontage. The scheme occupies a prominent site at the corner of Round Church Street and Bridge Street which has been a topic of heated discussion between developers, planners and preservationists for several years.

1975 05 09

Cambridge Union Society's historic debating chamber, scene of heated exchanges between Britain's top politicians this century, was badly damaged by fire. The blaze spread through part of the floor of the chamber and went up through two floors of the Round Church Street premises. Crowds gathered in Park Street as a 100-foot turntable ladder was swung into place and three pumping appliances arrived on the scene. The main part of the building was not affected by the fire. Teams of undergraduates mounted guard on the building throughout the night 75 05 09

1975 07 25

A protective walkway, quantities of scaffolding and expanses of wire netting surround the Tudor buildings that huddle around the corner of Bridge Street & Round Church Street, Cambridge. Behind the façade a vast mechanical screw digs into what was once Jordan's Yard, overlooked by the empty shell and sagging roofs of the rear of the buildings. Eleven years after it was suggested that something

ought to be done to rehabilitate the delaying 16th-century houses, work is finally underway to preserve them as the front of a new office and shopping development

1980

1983 04 23

Les Neal is retiring after half-a-century of dedicated, devoted and skilful service as a gentleman's hairdresser. Apprenticed at the age of 14 in 1932 to Walter George Ambrose, he served with the Prziborsky business in Round Church Street before moving to Watson's in Mill Road. He is a dedicated supporter and leader of the Scout movement and an enthusiastic and expert player of the bagpipes. – Frank Matthews. 83 04 23